

CENTER SCENE



The Bureau of Land Management Service Center Newsletter

December 1990

MAPPING THE LAND

The Bureau of Land Management is responsible for producing many types of maps, including Wilderness Study Maps, Fire Maps, and maps for Resource Management Plans and Environmental Impact Statement Studies. The Service Center Branch of Mapping Sciences, headed by Fred Batson, produces most of these BLM maps. The Branch handles requests from the Washington Office and State Offices for special projects, as well as private requests, such as for the recent map published in *Smithsonian* magazine.

The most common BLM maps are the 1:100,000 (100K) scale series. The Cartography Section, under the lead of Debbie Carter, has responsibility for maintaining and updating more than 700 of these maps. USGS creates the maps that are used as a base for BLM maps. The USGS maps show standard features such as streams, lakes, roads, etc., as well as the Universal Transverse Mercator (UTM) grid system. These features are necessary, but do not provide sufficient information for the management of the BLM public lands.

BLM's cartographers primarily add land status information to the base data obtained from USGS. Some of the features shown include land or mineral rights ownership or responsibility, Wilderness Study Areas, National Conservation Resource Areas, and areas designated for recreational use. Various states require other specific information on these maps, such as the Public Land Survey System (PLSS) which includes township, range, and section information; campgrounds; landmark buildings; points of historic interest; and many other features.

All the features on the maps are shown as symbols, and BLM's cartographers now have to be concerned with the issue of standardization. Standardized symbols and colors contribute to the ease of understanding a map quickly without having to study it to determine what each symbol and color represents. Standard-



Paul Christensen at work on a map

ized symbols also create Bureau recognition and uniform treatment of features.

The production of one map is a complex procedure that requires the creation of 20 to 23 individual separates. A separate is a collection of specific categories of information, such as roads and cultural features. For printing purposes, several separates would be combined based on color, and these film plates would be sent to the printer at the actual size of the map to be printed.

The Section is presently using some manual methods in producing the necessary separates and subsequent composite film negatives, but is responsible for researching and developing methods for automating map production. One of the tasks required in the automation of map making includes the preparation of data bases. A data base is a collection of all the computerized data used to produce a map. A data base must be completed for each of the 20 to 23 separates that are required to produce a map before the process of data base automation can be considered complete. Another task involves investigating software to meet typesetting requirements, which would replace tedious manual methods of type placement.

Steps have been made in automated map making, such as the use of the Kongsberg flatbed plotter, which is the output device used by the Cartography Section in the production of maps. *The Kongsberg plotter will be featured in a future issue of Center Scene.*

SANTA'S ELVES

It's that time of year again — the elves are getting ready to help Santa with his deliveries and spread some holiday cheer! Those elves (disguised as Service Center employees) contribute to the spirit of the season by participating in the annual SC Santa Project.

The project, now in its ninth year, provides a way for SC employees to help those less fortunate have a nicer holiday. Donations of food, clothing, toys, and money are delivered by Mr. and Mrs. Santa to some (often astonished) area families and senior citizens.

This year, the Service Center Social Organization held an auction to benefit the project. Over \$500 was raised for the cause, and many thanks go to all who donated and/or bid on items.

Donations for this year's project will go to five families and five senior citizens. More information on their personal needs and wants will soon be available. Collection boxes will be set up by all the doors, and there will also be jars out for donations.

All donated items will need to be at the SC by December 20th. Items will be wrapped on the 20th at 390 Union, and then will be delivered on December 21st. Volunteers are still needed for wrapping and delivering (elf attire beneficial!). Please contact Lee Krebs for more information at 969-6535.

Personnel News

Separations:

Leland Anderson,
Mgmt. Analyst, SC-320

Eric Strand, Chief,
Br. of Mod. Sys. Req., SC-310

CFC SUCCESS

Another successful Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) came to an end last month at the Service Center. CFC Chairperson Jenny Saunders (SC-322) added some pizzazz to this year's campaign. One of the special activities that she planned was an auction of donated items. The auction was held in conjunction with the Service Center Social Organization's Halloween costume contest and chili cookoff on October 31.

The atmosphere was festive as SC employees sampled entries from the Chili Cookoff "Bill of Fire." Prizes went to Ed Dettman (SC-650) for his Roles & Responsibilities Chili, Barb Kulias and Vicky Young (SC-651) for their Bambi Stew, and Lee Tomlin (SC-657) for his La Cucaracha Chili. Of the SC employees who chose to disguise themselves for the day, prizes went to Barb Kulias (Aunt Jemima); Barb Guest, SC-342 (dalmatian); and Norma Reitsma, SC-323 (Medusa). After prizes were awarded, the bidding began.



Kemp Conn accepts a higher bid

Farmer Kemp (Conn) opened the auction with a pound of the gavel. Items up for auction ranged from a 10-ounce silver bar to tickets for a country and western concert to banana bread. A set of five books on Alaska brought in the largest bid of \$330. A pie from Marie

Callendar's brought in a pledge of \$157, while a 1-month health club membership brought in a pledge of \$25 (which sums up the priorities of the bidders!). Even a tall, gold lamp (which may be reappearing in future auctions) brought in \$115, while the mysterious "Thing of the Month" brought in \$200.

Overall, this year's CFC campaign was a great success. SC employees exceeded the goal of \$30,000 in contributions, which is up from last year's total of \$28,000. The greatest increase in pledges over last year was in the Office of the Service Center Director (including SC-120, SC-130, and SC-140). The annual breakfast served by the SC Management Team will be awarded to both the Division of Personnel and the Division of Finance (3rd-year winners) for 100 percent participation.

Even though the CFC campaign gave us a reason to get crazy and have some fun, the real benefit was being able to help others in the community with our contributions.

OPERATION INVOLVEMENT

Operation Desert Shield is very real to many of us at the Service Center. Many SC employees have some kind of connection to the troops in the Middle East — whether it be a son, daughter, husband, niece, nephew, cousin, friend, or neighbor.

Those of us who are lucky enough to stay at home owe a great deal to those who are willing to fight for us. Rather than sit around feeling helpless, I wanted to find a way to get involved. I wanted to mount pictures of each soldier with a relative at the SC on posters so others would know of them. However, I discovered that the Pentagon would rather not have families or personnel identified, so I have been trying to come up with other options. I would like to share some of these with you and encourage you to become involved in any way you can:

1. Adopt a military person, either on your own or as a group (like SC-340 did). The Service Center Social Organization (SCSO) distributed information on the "Adopt A Soldier" program — a program where you can send letters and packages

to men and women serving in the Persian Gulf. Believe me, there are those who do not get much mail. Address letters and packages "Attention: Any Soldier or Sailor," followed by your choice of:

82nd Airborne Division
APO New York, NY 09656

197th Infantry Brigade
APO New York, NY 09315

or other addresses listed in the last SCSO newsletter.

2. Donate goods or money. SCSO also distributed information on Project L.O.V.E. (Loyal Overseas Veterans Effort). The Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc., have volunteered to be a receiving station for items that will be sent to packaging centers and forwarded overseas. In addition to letters, you can send nonperishable food items (sunflower seeds, hard candy, cookies, beef jerky, peanuts, Kool-Aid, gum, dried fruits) Chapstick, insect repellent, stationary, and sun block. You can also donate packaging materials, money for cookie ingredients and shipping costs or your time and labor. VVA's address is 2901

Sheridan, Denver, CO 80214. The Chapter Office phone number is 239-6555.

3. Conserve energy — this is one very important thing we all need to do more of to show our support. You all know the ways — you have heard them enough times. One simple way would be to carpool or ride the bus to work, rather than driving in by yourself. I keep waiting for some signs of public willingness to sacrifice a little bit, but let me get off of that subject!

4. Hold group meetings for SC employees who have family members in the Middle East to brainstorm on other ways of showing support. If you have a relative involved and are interested in meeting with others, please give me a call (236-0349) and we'll set something up.

Whether or not you have direct family involvement, there are ways you can show support. Please remember our military personnel — especially during this holiday season. It will do more good than you will ever know.

— Jim Ferguson